

Message Text

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67

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 INT-05 FEA-01 OES-03

/091 W

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P R 251920Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7247

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KINGSTON 1166

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, JM, VE

SUBJECT: PEREZ VISIT TO JAMAICA

REF: KINGSTON 1127

1. DESPITE A LATE ARRIVAL (2 HOURS), WHICH DESTROYED THE PROGRAM PREPARED BY THE GOJ, THE VISIT OF PRESIDENT PEREZ APPARENTLY WENT VERY WELL. NO COMMUNIQUE WAS ISSUED BUT PM MANLEY TOLD THE PRESS FOLLOWING HIS MEETING AT THE AIRPORT WITH PRESIDENT PEREZ THAT THE TALKS WERE FRUITFUL AND CONCENTRATED ON OIL, BAUXITE, SUGAR, CEMENT, AND SHIPPING.

2. A TEAM OF OFFICIALS FROM VENEZUELA IS TO COME TO JAMAICA WITHIN TWO DAYSTO FOLLOW UP ON THE TALKS ANDIDM MANLEY HAS BEEN INVITED BY PRESIDENT PEREZ TO VISIT VENEZUELA WITHIN TWO WEEKS "TO PIN DOWN PRECISELY" THE PRELIMINARY DECISIONS REACHED IN THEIR MEETING.

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PEREZ ALSO HAS PROMISED TO RETURN TO JAMAICA LATER THIS

YEAR FOR MORE TALKS WITH THE PM.

3. ACCORDING TO ONE WELL-CONNECTED JOURNALIST, JAMAICA AND VENEZUELA ARE MOVING TOWARDS A MASSIVE TRADE AND ECONOMIC AGREEMENT BASED ON BAUXITE, OIL, AND CEMENT. THE GOV IS INTERESTED IN BEING A PARTY TO GOJ PLANS TO ESTABLISH A CEMENT FACTORY IN THE WESTERN SECTION OF THE ISLAND. THE OUTPUT FROM THIS PLANT WILL BE MAINLY FOR EXPORT TO THE CARIBBEAN AND LATIN AMERICA.

4. MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY P.J. PATTERSON, WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE TALKS, DESCRIBED THEM AS "EXTREMELY FRUITFUL", ADDING THAT REGIONAL MATTERS INCLUDING SHIPPING, THE SUGAR PRODUCERS ORGANIZATION, AND SELA WERE REVIEWED.

5. AMBASSADOR WAS INFORMED BY IVO DE SOUZA, JAMAICAN AMBASSADOR IN CARACAS, THAT NOTHING COULD BE CONCLUDED BY GOV UNTIL DETAILS OF NATIONALIZATION OF OIL INDUSTRY WERE FINALIZED AND AN ASSESSMENT OF VENEZUELA'S ECONOMIC SITUATION THEN MADE. HE SAID PROSPECTIVE DEAL WITH JAMAICA ENVISAGED SOME SORT OF CUT-RATE OIL SUPPLY. HE EXPRESSED PLEASURE AT AMB SHLAUDEMANN'S CONFIRMATION. NOTE: DE SOUZA HAS BEEN IN PAST FORTHCOMING AND FRIENDLY WITH EMBOFFS, WHO CONSIDER HIM A GOOD AND RELIABLE SOURCE OF INFORMATION.

6. COMMENT: DESPITE ALL THE SMILES ON THE SURFACE AND CORDIALITY SHOWN THE PEREZ PARTY, THE GOJ WAS OFFENDED BY THE VENEZUELAN'S CASUAL AND INCONSIDERATE ATTITUDE. AT FIRST THE VISIT WAS PLANNED OVER TWO DAYS, BUT THE GOV CUT IT TO LESS THAN FIVE HOURS. AN 11:30 AM ARRIVAL WAS AGREED, SCHEDULES PUBLISHED, INVITATIONS SENT, ETC., AND THEN THE GOV CHANGED IT TO 14:30PM. THE BIG DAY CAME AND THE PM, CABINET, AND DIP CORPS ENDED UP WAITING TWO HOURS IN THE SUN. MRS. PEREZ, WHO WAS EXPECTED WITH HER HUSBAND, DID NOT COME BUT NOBODY BOTHERED TO TELL THE GOJ, WHICH ENDED UP SCRUBBING AS WELL THE SEPARATE PROGRAM WHICH IT HAD ARRANGED FOR HER. WHEN THE AMBASSADOR COMMENTED TO THE PM AT THE AIRPORT THAT THE TRAVEL OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HEADS OF STATE IS SOMEWHAT UNCERTAIN, MANLEY JUST LAUGHED AND SAID "THAT IS THE MOST CHARITABLE THING I'VE HEARD TODAY."
GERARD

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